

**Statement of Congressman Wally Herger (CA-2)**  
**On the Elimination of al Qaeda in Iraq Leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi**  
**June 8, 2006**

"The elimination of al-Zarqawi represents a substantial victory in the War on Terrorism, delivering justice to a terrorist mastermind responsible for the deaths of many Americans and thousands of Iraqi civilians. His termination is a triumph for the Iraqi people and its new government, and for American and coalition forces that have worked tirelessly to rid the world of this al Qaeda leader.

"While al-Zarqawi's followers and other insurgents in Iraq will surely continue their efforts to bring turmoil and death to Iraq, al-Zarqawi's death is a major blow to al Qaeda in Iraq. I commend the large majority of Iraqi people for pressing forward and resisting al-Zarqawi's desire for an all-out sectarian war. Iraqis played a pivotal role in tracking down al-Zarqawi, which is an indication of their determination to rout out terrorists in their country. It is my deepest hope and belief that al-Zarqawi's death will only deepen the unity between Shiite, Sunnis, and Kurds alike.

"I also want to especially commend our brave men and women in uniform who have served and sacrificed in Iraq. It is because of their unmatched bravery and skill that Iraq has transformed from a brutal regime to an inspiring and shining democracy in the heart of the Middle East. Our nation is more secure because we are fighting and defeating terrorists abroad, rather than on our own shores. Every American can be proud of our military's relentless commitment to defending freedom and protecting Americans."